United Nations CRC/C/OPAC/LVA/Q/1

Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-first session
11–29 January 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Latvia under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (15 pages maximum), if possible before 15 October 2015.

The Committee may take up any aspects of the children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party.

1. Please provide detailed information on the exact roles played by the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Welfare mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 4 of the State party report (CRC/C/OPAC/LVA/1) in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Optional Protocol.

2. Please inform the Committee whether any steps have been taken to disseminate information on the Optional Protocol and indicate whether there have been any relevant education programmes and awareness-raising campaigns targeting society at large, and in particular children and their parents.

3. Please provide information on the training activities related to the Optional Protocol for professionals working for and with children who are likely to have been involved in armed conflict abroad, especially for members of the armed forces, the police, immigration officials, lawyers, judges and medical and social workers.

4. Please clarify whether the Criminal Code explicitly criminalizes the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict by non-State armed groups. Please also clarify whether conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities is considered a war crime in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

5. Please provide detailed information on the "Youth Guard" movement referred to in paragraphs 30 to 33 of the State party report, in particular on training in the handling of weapons, whether there are any disciplinary methods used and whether a confidential *complaints mechanism is available* to participants.

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6. Please provide information on the procedures adopted by the State party to identify refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children who have been or are at risk of being recruited or used in hostilities abroad. Please also identify the rehabilitation services available to these children.

7. Please indicate whether there is any national legislation prohibiting the trade and export of arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as military assistance, to countries where children are involved in armed conflict.